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COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE
RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 209th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 15 November 1994, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. CISSÉ (Senegal)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The agenda was adopted.

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/AC.183/1994/CRP.2/Rev.1 and Add.1)

2. Mr. CASSAR (Malta), Rapporteur, introducing the draft report of the Committee to the General Assembly (A/AC.183/1994/CRP.2/Rev.1 and Add.1), said that the draft had been the object of thorough consideration by the Working Group at its meeting held on 24 October 1994. He drew the Committee's attention to the amendments approved by the Working Group with respect to documents contained in document A/AC.183/1994/CRP.2/Rev.1. He also noted that the report had no annexes, mainly because at the events organized by the Committee, with the exception of the United Nations International NGO Meeting and the European NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, no final documents had been adopted. The final communiqué adopted at those two meetings had been incorporated in the draft report.

3. Briefly summarizing the contents of the report, he drew attention to the fact that the report - and in particular chapter IV - had been prepared in the context of the significant developments which had taken place since the previous report. In that connection, the Working Group had inserted in paragraph 3 of chapter I of the report a reference to the Treaty of Peace signed between Israel and Jordan on 26 October 1994. In chapter VII (A/AC.183/1994/CRP.2/Rev.1/Add.1) containing the Committee's recommendations, the final sentence of paragraph 5 had been replaced by the following:

> "Also, in light of the new situation created on the ground by the signing of the Israeli-PLO Declaration of Principles and the subsequent implementation agreements, and noting the recognized need of continued United Nations involvement in the question of Palestine, the Committee is of the view that consideration should be given to the holding of an event in the territory under Palestinian Authority to address aspects of the transition."

4. The draft report, as revised, was adopted chapter by chapter and as a whole.

5. Mr. AL-KIDWA (Observer for Palestine), after thanking the Committee, the Division for Palestinian Rights and the Department of Public Information for their constant commitment to and support for the Palestinian people in its struggle for its inalienable rights, said that the report demonstrated the Committee's ability to deal with the new political realities while upholding its principles.

6. Turning to the question of draft resolutions to be submitted to the General Assembly, he recalled that at the forty-eighth session there had been five resolutions on the item "Question of Palestine", of which four had been put to a

vote. He suggested that at the current session, the draft resolution entitled "Intifadah of the Palestinian people" should not be introduced under agenda item 40 (Question of Palestine). Of the others, he suggested that some changes might be made in the wording of the resolution on the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, while keeping the essential elements. Regarding the situation in the Middle East (agenda item 38), he noted that a resolution was traditionally submitted concerning Jerusalem; although its wording had remained unchanged for several years, it was balanced and in any case the time was not right for changes to be made. It should therefore be submitted with the text unchanged. He noted the efforts of three States - the United States of America, the Russian Federation and Norway - to introduce a more specific resolution, to be entitled "Middle East peace settlement", but although there had been preliminary discussions on the matter, further work was needed. His delegation would be happy to help with any details.

7. With regard to other resolutions, his delegation considered that those adopted under the item on UNRWA should be reduced in number. It had distributed five new resolutions which responded positively to comments made by several Member States and which he hoped would meet with wide acceptance. However, more resolutions could be added or all the old ones retained. With regard to resolutions relating to the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, he recalled that only four had been adopted at the previous session. They were reasonable resolutions and would remain basically the same at the current session, although they needed some updating. The massacre at the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, for example, together with Security Council resolution 904 (1994), should be referred to specifically. The Second Committee and the plenary would be dealing with only one resolution each, on Israeli settlements and assistance to the Palestinian people, respectively, which he hoped would be adopted by consensus. He had had the same hopes of the resolution on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, but it seemed that it had not been possible to reach a consensus on the matter in the Third Committee. He hoped that the resolution would be adopted by an overwhelming majority, with no strong objections, in the coming days. He urged members of the Committee to support the resolution and assured them that his delegation would take into consideration any comments they made.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.